

About the Public Art Program



Installed in 1975, *Stained Glass Window* by Julie Weyrich actually predates the beginning of Bellevue's public Art Program. This beautiful piece in the entry to Fire Station No. 1 on Bellevue Way helped persuade the City that Public Art is a good investment for the community.

Partnerships. Whenever possible, the City commissions art in partnership with others. *Bellgate*, pictured here, was commissioned by Bellevue Allied Arts, a group of citizens committed to promoting the arts in Bellevue and who clearly envisioned the civic benefits art provides. The City provided a part of the funding in partnership with Allied Arts. *Bellgate* was commissioned when the plan for a pedestrian corridor through the center of downtown Bellevue was first developed by the City and private property owners. Sited at the corridor's future midpoint, *Bellgate* was a bellwether for future Downtown development.

Bellevue's public art program was first established in 1979. Today approximately 55 works are in the collection, with more on the way. Add to that the many works acquired by private owners and placed in public spaces and it's easy to see that Bellevue's love of the arts is becoming more visible as each year passes.

The Arts Commission serves as the Public Art Program's key advisor, guiding the City as it secured a wide variety of art and dispersed it throughout the community. Downtown Bellevue, as the community's central gathering place, is a focus for a concentration of public art, both publicly and privately owned.



Commissioned, monumental work.

One of the best-loved works in the collection is Tom Jay's *Salmon Woman and Raven*, located in front of the Highland Community Center on Northup Way near 140th Ave. NE. Working with the Native American community, Jay created a powerful rendition of a scene from this traditional Native American story. *Salmon Woman and Raven* is cast in bronze and stands over 17' high. There are over 120 salmon cast in the ring surrounding *Salmon Woman*.

Purchased works. One of the pleasures of the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition is that the City can exercise its option to purchase one or more works and place them throughout the City. Pictured here is Pam Beyette's *The Nature of Sitting*, shown in its current location in the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Pam created this sculpture for the 2000 Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition



Art in the infrastructure. Another role public art plays is in transforming the city's infrastructure. Vicki Scuri, an artist known nation-wide for her innovative use of form liner design, created a quilt-like pattern for the extensive retaining walls built as part of transportation improvements along Newport Way. Vicki chose two completely different references for her design –

Newport's industrial past as a coal-mining region and its more recent past as a suburb. She created the unlikely combination of coal, shells found in the ground during excavation, and gelatin molds, a nod to suburban childhood, into a stunning pattern for the walls.



A civic identify with a strong arts focus. As City Council looked to the future, they envisioned Bellevue as the cultural center of the Eastside. When the opportunity arose to develop a new City Hall, art became part of the building program so that our community's key civic icon would include art that is significant, integral to the building and tells a story about our community. Artists Linda Beaumont, Alan Storey and Dan Corson collaborated with the project design team to create 4 distinct works of art that, together, make a poetic reference to our City's past, present and future.



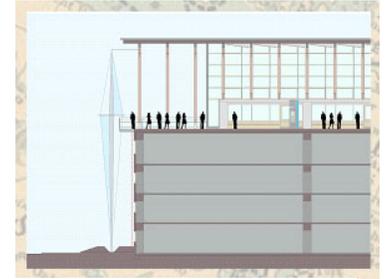
Concept for *Silver Root*, by Dan Corson;
site: plaza



Concept for *Longboat-Reed-Rookery* by Dan Corson; site: east pool



Current by Linda Beaumont
– installed; site: interior concourse



Concept for *Compass* (working title) by Alan Storey; site: exterior viewpoint, south end of concourse

See our page on Public Art at New City Hall.

Current is installed. The other works are in fabrication. Anticipated installation dates vary by piece. If you would like to be notified for installations and celebration information, or would like to receive a brochure describing City Hall's art, send your email and street address to BAC@ci.bellevue.wa.us .